

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /074 W
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R 251609Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2615

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,SN,UR

SUBJECT: REPORTED SOVIET APPROACH TO SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW

REF: SINGAPORE 3151

1. I SPOKE TO SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR TODAY ON SOCIAL OCCASION AND INQUIRED IF SOVIETS HAD APPROACHED HIM RECENTLY ON SEA MATTERS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO FORMAL APPROACHES, ALTHOUGH HE HAS HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH KAPITSA, CHIEF OF FIRST FAR EASTERN SECTION AT FOREIGN OFFICE, IN WHICH WHOLE RANGE OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO PRC AND SEA HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.

2. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR, BASED ON HIS CONTACTS HERE, SOVIETS WOULD NOT WISH U.S. TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM SEA SINCE THIS COULD ENHANCE DANGER OF DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN USSR AND PRC AND ENCOURAGE INSTABILITY.

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AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD NOT NOTED THAT SOVIETS AT PRESENT

ARE PUSHING ESPECIALLY HARD FOR COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN OR ANY OTHER PARTICULAR LINE; HE FEELS THEY ARE STILL ENGAGED IN ASSESSING SITUATION AND HAVE YET TO COME TO FIRM CONCLUSIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR BELIEVES SOVIETS HOPE THAT NORTH VIETNAM WILL BE ANTI-PRC BULWARK AND WILL ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE THIS DEVELOPMENT. HE SENSES THAT SOVIETS ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF A UNITED VIETNAM AND, ON BALANCE, THAT THEY ARE NOT KEEN ON PUSHING FOR UNIFICATION.

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS ARE CLEARLY ANXIOUS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF CHINESE INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND HAVE SAID SO PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY. WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM SOVIET SOURCES THAT THEY WOULD PREFER SOME CONTINUING U.S. PRESENCE TO PREVENT PRC HEGEMONY, BUT SUCH AN INFERENCE SEEMS HIGHLY PLAUSIBLE. WE AGREE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT OPENED UP A STONG CAMPAIGN ON ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY YET, BUT WE EXPECT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT IT AFTER THE HELSINKI SUMMIT.
STOESSEL

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